



UOW Ceremonial Gowns History



UNIVERSITY OF
WOLLONGONG





Arms of the University

The principal elements incorporated in the Arms of the University are the blue of the sea, the gold of the sand and the red of the Hottentots flame tree. The open book often used for educational institutions has also been included.

The Blazoning:

"Arms a Book expanded Argent bound and clasped Or on a Chief of the last three cinquefoils pierced Gules"

Preface

The UStW Centennial Gown History committee were excited to discover the gowns worn by the University of Stellenbosch's Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors through the years in graduations and other official ceremonies. It follows on from an historical exhibition produced by the University Library in December 2002 and the launch of a permanent online exhibition in 2003. The booklet also outlines some of the history behind UStW's centennial and academic dress traditions.



A Brief History of Ceremonial and Academic Dress

Wearing ceremonial or academic dress is a custom dating back to medieval times and the oldest universities in Europe. The masters and students in these institutions were typically members of the medieval clergy so they wore ecclesiastical versions of the ordinary everyday clothes of that era. The official dress worn at graduations and many other formal occasions at modern universities is originally derived from this early style of dress.

Students who are about to graduate are referred to as *graduates*. Staff and graduates wear gowns (sometimes called robes) and appropriate styles of hoods with coloured linings and headwear in accordance with their official role or highest academic qualifications.

Different colours are used to indicate different academic degrees. Contrary to some misconceptions there are no "traditional" faculty colours that must be followed across different institutions, each university is free to choose its own unique range of colours. Academic staff or university officers who are graduates wear the gowns of the universities from which they graduated with their highest degree.

Headwear takes the form of either a stiff academic cap with a flat square top (referred to as a mortarboard or mortarboard) or a lightweight, rounded soft hat with a stiff brim (sometimes called a *tutor's bonnet*). A coloured tassel is typically draped down the side of the cap or bonnet. Different styles of headwear distinguish degrees from a first honours degree.

Many universities in Australia and other Commonwealth countries, including the University of Wollongong, have modified aspects of their ceremonial and academic dress and their practices on the universities of Oxford and Cambridge.



History of UOW Gowns

The WUC Era

During the era of the Wollongong University College (WUC's predecessor) in the nineteen fifties and early nineteen sixties, staff and students wore the ceremonial and graduation dress of the College's parent institution: the University of New South Wales. The (WUC) Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor performed the official roles in graduations and other ceremonies held at Wollongong, accompanied by the College Warden/Professor C.A.M. Grey (the most senior staff member at the Wollongong campus). Graduates wore the traditional UNSW black gowns.

The UOW Era

After achieving autonomy in 1978, the new University of Wollongong was able to appoint its own Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor, and adopt its own style of ceremonial and academic dress. A Ceremonial Committee was established and given the task of recommending to University Council on all aspects of ceremonial, including the matter of academic dress. This saw the introduction of the striking blue gowns for UOW graduates, a colourful change from the conventional black student gowns worn during the College era. The colour was chosen to reflect the sun along the Illawarra coastline. The black and gold and black and silver ceremonial gowns of UOW's first Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor were very much based on the traditional British style. They were however, lined with blue satin in a nod to the colour of the new student gowns.

First appearance of the Ceremonial Gowns

The Chancellor was officially presented with his gown during the 1978 Ceremony of Installation and Dedication. Held on stage at the impressive surroundings of the Wollongong Town Hall. This was the first ceremony at which students graduated from the autonomous University of Wollongong. The Vice-Chancellor's gown made its first appearance at the following year's ceremony.

Writing about their first UOW graduation, the Vice-Chancellor Professor Michael Neil observed "The University's academic dress [was] worn for the first time at the ceremony. The distinctive royal blue gowns with the various hoods of old gold, green, red, silver and blue brightened the scene with the University's first PhD graduate resplendent in blue trimmed with red satin and a blue and red boucher. The University's first Chancellor Mr Justice Michael Hope, was robed in the gold and black Chancellor's gown by the University's Master the Governor of New South Wales, Sir Roden Cutler" (UOW Annual Report 1979, p.11)

Design Changes Over the Years

Several changes were introduced to the fabric and certain design aspects of Chancellors' gowns in later years, which were also subsequently mirrored in the Vice-Chancellors' gowns. These changes are outlined in the following pages of this booklet. The current Chancellor and Vice-Chancellors' gowns now have a style more reflective of the University's Australia setting, as well as its close ties with the Illawarra region.



1. UOW students in their blue gowns in 1978. 2. Professor C.A.M. Grey and UOW's first Vice-Chancellor Professor Robert Hynes at the first graduation ceremony held under UOW in 1978. 3. Few words from the UOW Graduation and Governance of Installation. 4. Graduates along the Wollongong Town Hall. 5. A Chancellor's gown. 6. Chancellor Hope and UOW's first Deputy-Chancellor David Terry.

The Chancellors

Justice Robert Marsden Hope
AC, CMB
Foundation Chancellor
August 1975 – September 1987



Michael Codd AC
Chancellor
October 1987 – September 2009



Jillian Broadbent AO
Chancellor
October 2009 –

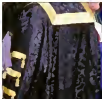




Design of the Chancellor's Gown

The style of the Chancellor's gown was proposed by the University's Commission on Governance and formally approved by the University Council in October 1975. "This was for 'a gown of black damask lined with blue and trimmed with gold' and 'a tassel of gold with a gold head.' There have been four versions of the Chancellor's gown over the years."

The first gown was worn by Justice Hope throughout his 22 years as Chancellor. It was all black damask lined with gold broad trim and tassels on the sleeves, a wide gold horizontal trim across the torso and a blue satin lining, echoing the blue of the new UOBA student gowns. His tassel was made of black velvet with gold broad trim and a gold tassel.



Chancellor Cadd, the University's second Chancellor, wore a semi-formal traditional black damask gown and tassel due to that of the predecessor during the early years in his role. The gold broad trim and tassels on Chancellor Cadd's gown, however, were slightly different; the tassels were down the sleeves, were distinguished by their longer, more shaped seven buttons. Prior to receiving this gown he too had worn the original Chancellor's gown.





A gown made of a more light weight black unlined fabric was introduced for the Chancellor in late 2009. This was far more suitable for the hot summer conditions experienced during the increasing number of December graduation ceremonies, as well as for the ceremonies the Chancellor attended at the University's campus in Dubai (UORQ). This new gown featured a different gold trim design comprising shoulder embroidery of a band of gold oak leaves, a more ornate gold and red floral embroidery trim down the lower sleeves and a wide gold horizontal trim across the base. This was the gown Chancellor Giddens wore for nearly all the ceremonies he presided over during his latter years of service.



Chancellor Broadbent's gown had a slightly different design. It displays the same band of gold oak leaves in the shoulder embroidery complemented by a newly designed gold floral embroidery pattern down the lower sleeves. Initially when the gown was made in 2009, the hem was unadorned. A horizontal gold trim was added in early 2013. For her final year Chancellor Broadbent chose a Tudor bonnet, black velvet with gold trim and gold tassels.

The floral emblem represents the flowers of the Broomfield Farm tree signifying the University's proud links with the local region.



The Vice-Chancellors

Professor (Lindsay) Michael Birt
AO, CBE
Foundation Vice-Chancellor
January 1975 – July 1981



Professor Kenneth McKinnon AO
Vice-Chancellor
July 1981 – February 1995



Professor Gerard Sutton AO
Vice-Chancellor
February 1995 – December 2000



Professor Paul Wellings CBE
Vice-Chancellor
January 2002 -





Design of the Vice-Chancellor's Gown

The style of the Vice-Chancellor's gown modelled on the Chancellor's gown was also proposed by the University's Commemorative Committee and formally approved by the University Council in October 1875. This was for "a gown of black damask lined with blue and trimmed with silver" and "a tassel cap of black with a silver tassel." There have been three versions of the Vice-Chancellor's gown over the years.

The Vice-Chancellor's gown was made of the same black Saksbury damask but with silver braid trim and tassels on the sleeves and a wide silver horizontal trim across the base. It too had the blue satin lining to echo the colour of the student gowns.

The original gowns of both the Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor were made by Mrs. R. J. Casper, through her company Ecclesiastical and Academic Outfitters of Melbourne in South Australia. The subsequent gowns were made by Raymond H. Binks & Son of Melbourne except for Chancellor David Indar gown, which was made by P. Buxton & Sons, also of Melbourne.

Mrs Casper designed and manufactured academic dress for many of the Australian universities at the time. She had started the University sector in 1878 to meet with the Commemorative Committee and other representatives from UQML about proposed designs under consideration for the gowns.

The new academic dress was one of the many proposals debated under discussion that year for the newly autonomous University.

The Chancellor's gown was completed first, followed by the Vice-Chancellor's gown in early 1877.

Records held at the University Archives suggest that the first Vice-Chancellor's gown was worn by both Professor Bell and Professor Mathewson, who became the University's second Vice-Chancellor in 1881. Both Vice-Chancellors wore a similar tresser of black velvet with silver braid trim and a silver tassel.





Vice-Chancellor Suttons black damask gown with silver tinsel trim and tassels was of a similar traditional design to his predecessors. His gown, however, featured the distinctive tassels with longer domed shaped woven buttons sewn down each sleeve. This same feature was incorporated into the Chancellor's gown when Michael Cadd became Chancellor in 1987. Professor Suttons' choice of headpiece was a traditional black Tudor bonnet with silver tinsel.



Vice-Chancellor Wellings gown was designed in a matching style to that of Chancellor Broadbent's gown with silver trim. It features the band of oak leaves in the shoulder area and gold and black emblems representing the flowers from trees on the campus. As with the Chancellor's gown, when this new gown was originally made the heraldic was unnoticed. A heraldic silver trim at the base of the gown was added in early 2013. Professor Wellings chose of headpiece a the black tinsel with silver trim and a silver tassel.



Major Ceremonial Events in UOW History

1951

Start of the Wollongong Division of the New South Wales University of Technology (which became UNSW)

1961

Wollongong Division becomes Wollongong University College (WUC)

1963

March 28th
First WUC Graduation ceremony held. Early ceremonies were held in the sports hall or in the 'Control Square' (what is now the control area) of campus)

1976

June 12th
First UOW Graduation ceremony held at the Wollongong Town Hall. Justice Robert Hope formally installed UOW's first Chancellor

1981

May 8th
Honorary Doctor of Letters conferred on Vice-Chancellor Kenneth Professor Michael Birt at the Graduation ceremony

1991

February 18th
Official opening ceremony for the Faculty of Law. Honorary Doctor of Laws conferred on Chancellor Hope at this same ceremony

1994

October 17th
Honorary Doctor of Letters conferred on Vice-Chancellor Professor Ken McKinnon at the Graduation ceremony

2009

December 18th
Honorary Doctor of Letters conferred on former Chancellor Michael Costello at the Graduation ceremony

2011

University celebrates its 50th anniversary

December 20th
Honorary Doctor of Science conferred on Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton at the Graduation ceremony

1950's & 60's

1970's

1980's

1990's

2000's

2010's

1962

March 1st
Official opening ceremony for the Wollongong University College

1975

Establishment of the autonomous University of Wollongong

May 2nd
First WUC Graduation ceremony held at the Wollongong Town Hall

1977

Graduation ceremonies held on campus in the new Union Hall (Commenced moved to the new Gymnasium as student numbers grew and before years then back to the new larger University Hall where they are still held today)

1989

December 8th
In a special graduation ceremony, Doctor of Letters honorary degree was conferred on three past Prime Ministers (Sir John Gorton, Mr Gough Whitlam & Mr Michael Spence)

1993

April 2nd
Official opening ceremony for the Northern Park Campus at Berry (predecessor to Shoalhaven Campus)

1996

April 8th
First UOW Dubai Graduation ceremony held

2007

January 20th
Official ceremony held to welcome first student cohort at the Graduate School of Medicine

2011

December 20th
First fully separate graduation ceremony held for Shoalhaven

Images through the Years



Many images have been captured of the Chancellor, the Deputy Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor in their gowns at graduations and other ceremonies, both at Wollersong and other locations where USY has had an official presence. These range from the opening of the University's first satellite campus at Merry to graduation ceremonies at the Dubai campus and even a special graduation ceremony held for Mexican students from Pegasus NewGuiana at Parliament House in Port Moresby.





The other Ceremonial and Honorary Gowns

The University's other categories of ceremonial, honorary and academic gowns have also brought their own range of modifications to ceremonies over the many years since the first official UOW Graduation ceremony held in 1878. Following a major review of ceremonial and academic dress codes in UOW in February 2013 the University Council approved changes to several of the ceremonial gowns.

The Deputy Chancellor

The Deputy Chancellor's gown is of an identical design to the Chancellor's but without the horizontal gold trim along the base of the gown. Their headpiece is a brimless cap (tassel of black with a gold tassel). Originally the Deputy wore the habit of Prior for our highest academic degrees or the gown of a University Council member. When they were presiding at graduation ceremonies in the absence of the Chancellor they would wear the Chancellor's gown. A separate gown was introduced for the Deputy Chancellor in 2003.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellors and other Senior Executives

The July 2013 Graduation ceremonies saw the introduction of ceremonial gowns for each of the Deputy Vice-Chancellors. The December 2013 Graduations saw the introduction of ceremonial gowns for the Chief Administrative Officer and the Chief Finance Officer. Prior to this each member of the senior executive wore the habit of their highest academic degree or the gown of a University Council member. Both new styles of gown echo the design of the Vice-Chancellor's gown but without the shoulder embroidery or horizontal silver trim along the hem. The Chief Administrative and the Chief Finance Officers' gowns are distinguished from the Deputy Vice-Chancellors' gowns by the reversing of the colours in the embroidered sleeve emblems (black on silver instead of silver on black). Their headpiece is a brimless cap or hood of black with a silver tassel.

The Honorary Graduates

The Honorary Graduate gowns for the higher academic degrees of Doctor of Science (DS), Doctor of Letters (DLitt) and Doctor of Laws (LLD) are red with blue lining and feature embroidery on the blue lineduffed sleeves. Headpiece is a black Tule bonnet with an appropriate coloured tassel (silver for the Honorary Doctor of Science and gold for the Doctor of Letters or the Doctor of Laws). The first UOW Honorary degrees were awarded in 1975. The former Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors have all received honorary awards in recognition of their services to the University, and have worn their honorary robes when attending later graduation ceremonies.

The University Fellows

The University Fellow gowns are blue and are draped with the red and gold Council stole featuring the University crest on the left side. The stole has a deep square yoke across the back of the shoulders. There is no headpiece. Council approved the wearing of the first University Fellowships in 1985.

The University Council Members

The Council gowns are blue with bands of red and gold around the sleeves, and are draped with the red and gold Council stole featuring the University crest on the left side. The stole has a deep square yoke across the back of the shoulders. There is no headpiece. The blue gowns first worn in 1875 were originally plain. The stole was designed and introduced after 1960. University Council approved the addition of the red and gold trim on the gown sleeves in 1985 to distinguish between the ceremonial dress of Council members and University Fellows.



1. Former Chancellor Michael Cook wearing his honorary gown to confer the Doctor of Letters in 2000. 2. A University Fellow wearing their stole. 3. The deep square yoke across the back of the stole. 4. Example of the University Fellow gown. 5. Example of the Council Member's gown. 6. The University crest featured on the stole.

The Academic Gowns

The striking blue student gowns were introduced in 1876, as explained in the section outlining the History of UQ's gowns. These have matching blue hoods lined in different coloured silks. Up until recent graduation ceremonies the hood silk colour indicated the faculty from which the degree was awarded.

Doctoral students wear a variation of the blue gown with red silk facings or a red gown faced with blue depending on the level of their degree.

A member of the academic staff or an officer of the University who is a graduate wears the habit of his or her highest degree. This is why academic gowns from many other Australian and overseas universities often feature in UQ's annual graduation ceremony processions.

The Hood Colours

In 2012, the University sixtieth anniversary year, the academic degrees conferred were presented according to the following academic dress hood silk colours:

Bachelor Degrees

- Faculty of Arts – Red
- Faculty of Commerce – Emerald Green
- Faculty of Creative Arts – Olive Green
- Faculty of Education – Crimson
- Faculty of Engineering – Bright Red
- Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences – Wine Red
- Faculty of Information – Pale Green
- Faculty of Law – Purple
- Faculty of Science – Silver
- Honours Bachelor Degrees – As above with white border
- Graduate School of Medicine – Black

Master Degrees

- Master by Research – As above with red border
- Master by Coursework – Cream with golden brown border
- Masters (by Research (Sydney Business School)) – Light Blue with red border

Doctoral Degrees

- Doctor of Philosophy, PhD – Blue with red border
- Doctor of Creative Arts, DCA – Blue with red border
- Doctor of Education, DEd – Blue with red border
- Doctor of Public Health, DPH – Blue with red border
- Doctor of Business Administration – Blue with red border
- Doctor of Science, DSc – Red with blue border
- Doctor of Letters, DLitt – Red with blue border
- Doctor of Laws, LL.D – Red with blue border

Others

- Graduate Diploma – Rose pink
- Diploma/Associate Diploma – No lining, yellow border
- Graduate Certificate – No lining, Tangerine border

Following the review of ceremonial and academic dress codes in February 2012, the University Council approved a significant change to the traditional hood silk colours of the student gowns. The December 2012 graduation ceremonies mark the transition to the new colours. For undergraduate pass degrees students now wear a blue hood with a light blue silk lining; for undergraduate honours degrees a blue hood with a light blue silk lining and a black border; and for masters by research degrees a blue hood with a cream silk lining and a red border.



Examples of hood colours as worn in 2012: 1. A Bachelor degree hood 2. An honours Bachelor degree hood 3. A Masters by Coursework hood 4. A Masters by Research hood 5. A blue PhD gown and hood 6. A red higher Doctoral degree gown and hood.

The Ceremonial Gowns Exhibition

The UOW Ceremonial Gowns: Historical exhibition was produced to coincide with the December graduation ceremonies in 2013. Five ceremonial gowns and six Honorary gowns worn by past Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors were placed on display in the University Library's Period Rooms.

The day of the official Exhibition launch Friday 7th December also featured the three gowns of the current Chancellor (Deputy Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor) which were on loan for the launch.

prior to their use at the upcoming ceremonies the following week.

The Exhibition featured historical photographs and film footage from the University Archives collection complemented by more recent images sourced from the University's Media Unit. These pictures of past graduates and other official ceremonies over the years brought back vivid memories for many of UOW's present and former staff, students and visitors.



1. Exhibition official launch, 2. Chancellor Alison Broadbent, Elizabeth Hope (daughter of Chancellor Robert Hope) and Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Redding, 3. The gowns of the current Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Chancellor

The Exhibition Goes Online

The rich historical material and information compiled for the original exhibition formed the basis for the subsequent development of a permanent online exhibition. This had the twofold purpose of preserving the stories behind the gowns (which had been chosen (legal for the first time) and enabling the University and wider community to access the stories and ongoing range of digitised images now and in the future, anywhere anytime.

The UOW Ceremonial Gowns: History online exhibition was launched during the July 2013 graduation ceremonies, and is promoted through the University Library, University Archives and UOW Graduation websites.



Reference sources

- University of Wollongong (UOW) Council Minutes and other official records
- University Of Wollongong Archives' correspondence with long-term and former University staff
- UOW Graduation Ceremony: A Brief History - <http://www.uow.edu.au/students/graduation/history/index.html>
- The Surgeon Society (for the Study of the History of Academic Dress) - <http://www.burgon.org.uk/>
- University of Wollongong Graduation Booklets
- Wollongong University College Graduation Booklets
- Campus News (University of Wollongong newsletter)
- University of Wollongong Annual Reports

(Digitised historical sets of the last four publications are available for further reference via the UOW Library website and the UOW Archives website.)

- Photographs from the UOW Archives and UOW Media Unit collections.

UNIVERSITY OF
WOLLONGONG
LIBRARY



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Visit the companion online exhibition at
www.library.uow.edu.au/exhibitions

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